

REMARKS

Applicants offer the following remarks with respect to the rejections of claims 13-18. Applicants requested the identified amendments to the claims be entered to place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal should that be necessary. The amendments do not add any new matter.

2. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,867,023 (hereinafter referred to as the "023" patent). Specifically, the Examiner indicates that FIG. 3 of the '023 patent shows a blade magazine with all of the recited parts.

Amended claim 17 of the present application recites a blade magazine for use in a head assembly of a matboard cutting machine, which magazine includes: (a) a body; (b) a slot disposed in the body, the slot sized to receive a cutting blade that has an obliquely oriented cutting edge; (c) a flange disposed adjacent one end of the slot; and (d) a means for holding a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange, wherein said holding means is operable to prevent slidable motion of a blade relative to the flange.

The '023 patent discloses a magazine having two halves 222, a blade disposed between the two halves 222, and an adjustment screw 248. Each half 222 of the magazine has a ledge element 242 and a corresponding recess element 244. When assembled "the ledge element 242 of one plate is seated within the corresponding recess 244 of the other" (col.8, lines 35-38). "Because of the added thickness contributed by the surface sections 238, and the corresponding width of the marginal elements 242, the paired plates define a thin cavity of planar configuration... The spacing of the walls is sufficient to permit the cutting blade 252 to be freely inserted between the plates" (col. 8, lines 45-51). The orientation of ledge elements 242 and the thin cavity permits the blade 252 to be slidably moved within the cavity relative to the ledge elements. Adjustment screw 248 is used to adjust the amount that the corners of the blade 252 project beyond the oblique edges 245 of the plates.

Applicants respectfully submit that the magazine of the '023 patent does not disclose: 1) a slot disposed in the body, the slot sized to receive a cutting blade that has an obliquely oriented cutting edge; and/or 2) a means for holding a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange, wherein the holding means is operable to prevent slidable

motion of a blade relative to the flange; as is recited in amended claim 17. Regarding claim 18, which depends from claim 17, adds the additional limitations that "the flange is oriented relative to the slot at an angle that is at least substantially the same as a cutting edge angle of the blade, thereby enabling a portion of the blade to extend out from the magazine." The additional limitations recited in claim 18 are not disclosed within the '023 patent and further distinguish the claimed magazine from that disclosed within the '023 patent.

For at least the reasons identified above, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the stated rejection and allow amended claims 17 and 18.

5. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,967,519 issued to Esterly (hereinafter referred to as "Esterly") in view of the '023 patent.

Amended claim 13 of the present application recites a head assembly for a cutting machine, that includes:

(a) a head having mounting means for movement of the head assembly on an axis, said the defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to the axis;

(b) a slide mounted for slidable movement in the first channel between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, the slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to the first channel, and the slide and head having cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of the slide to the plunged blade position; and

(c) a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into the second channel, wherein the magazine includes a slot, a shoulder obliquely disposed relative to the slot and positioned adjacent one end of the slot, and means for securing a blade within the slot.

Esterly, in contrast, discloses a multidirectional web cutter that has a rotatable blade assembly 28 that includes a "blade 32 supported in blade housing 34 by blade clamp 36 and thumb screw 38 as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3" (col.2, lines 27-29). Esterly further discloses a "blade slide 57 on which is mounted the blade 32..." (col.2, lines 45-46). Hence, Esterly does not disclose a blade-holding magazine as is recited in amended claim 1. Rather, Esterly discloses that a blade 32 is mounted on a slide 57 by a clamp 36

and screw 38. There is no magazine or channel within a slide, and there is consequently no magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into the channel within the slide. The differences between the magazine of the '023 patent and the magazine of the present invention are described above.

Applicants respectfully submit that references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or make obvious the head assembly of amended claim 13. For example, neither reference discloses or suggests a "a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into the second channel, wherein the magazine includes a slot, a shoulder obliquely disposed relative to the slot and positioned adjacent one end of the slot, and means for securing a blade within the slot."

Regarding amended claim 14, applicants respectfully submit that neither reference discloses the head assembly of amended claim 13, further wherein the means for securing a blade within the slot is configured to secure a blade having an obliquely oriented cutting edge.

Regarding amended claim 15, applicants respectfully submit that neither reference discloses the head assembly of amended claim 13, further wherein the flange is disposed such that the means for securing a blade within the slot holds a portion of a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange.

Regarding amended claim 16, applicants respectfully submit that neither reference discloses the head assembly of amended claim 15, further wherein the means for securing a blade within the slot includes a screw threadably engaged with the magazine, the screw positioned to act against an end of the blade opposite the cutting edge.

For at least the reasons identified above, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the stated rejection and allow amended claims 13-18.

As applicants have traversed each rejection and objection raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the stated rejections, and pass the

present application on to issuance. In the event a fee is due, please charge our Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

By Richard D. Getz
Richard D. Getz
Registration No. 36,147
Attorney for the Applicants

McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3202
(860) 549-5290

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